

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

**THE WASH EAST COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STAKEHOLDERS
FORUM**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the above held on Thursday, 5th December, 2024
at 1.00 pm in the Room at Valentine Road, Hunstanton and on Microsoft Teams**

PRESENT:

Councillor Squire – Borough Council (Chair)
Dave Robson – Borough Council
George Fuhrmann – Environment Agency
Matt Jones – Wash Landscape Partnership
Paul Bland – Heacham South Beach Owners Association
Andrew Murray – Hunstanton Society

PRESENT VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS:

Jade Kite – Borough Council
Councillor Parish – Borough Council
Michael Burton – Borough Council
Henry Anthony – Borough Council
Vanessa Gouldsmith – Natural England
Phil Hulme – Environment Agency
Kelly-Ann Willson – The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership
Jim Scott – RSPB

		<u>ACTION</u>
1	<p><u>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Those present introduced themselves.</p>	
2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Derrick Lloyd – Hunstanton Chamber of Trade, Mike McDonnell – McDonnell Caravans Ltd, Mark Johnson – Environment Agency and Adele Powell – The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership.</p>	
3	<p><u>MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.</p>	
4	<p><u>HUNSTANTON CLIFFS (UNIT A) UPDATE</u></p> <p>Officers delivered a presentation providing an update on Unit A, as</p>	

	<p>attached.</p> <p>Information was provided on the Annual Cliff Monitoring, and it was explained that a final version of the report had been received which would be published on the Borough Council's website after the meeting.</p> <p>Click here to view the report.</p> <p>It was noted that the rate of erosion across the whole length of the cliff was 13.2cm per year which remained in line with the Hunstanton Coastal Management Plan (HCMP) projections.</p> <p>It was highlighted that beach levels along the length of the cliffs had lowered by 2.5m since monitoring began in 2010 and it was explained that this would be monitored on a regular basis to see if it had any impact, and the Stakeholder Group would be updated as required.</p> <p>It was explained a review had been undertaken of the cliff top fence and it highlighted that there was no need to rollback the fence line at present, but it was explained Officers would review that annually.</p> <p>Officers explained that some of the redundant fence line and concrete fence posts which had reached the cliff edge required removal and a specialist abseiling company was employed to remove them and works were completed over five days. A dozen concrete fence posts were successfully removed near and around the cliff fence and Officers added they had asked for a survey to see what it was like for the other redundant fence lines.</p> <p>Paul Bland asked how long the material lasted to protect the cliff fall. In response, Officers explained that they could not provide a specific timeframe.</p> <p>Andrew Murray asked whether it would be sensible to consider removing redundant fences on the top of the cliff. Officers confirmed that this would be reviewed once they receive the survey report.</p> <p>Councillor Squire asked whether the vegetation growth on the cliff helped to protect it. In response, Officers explained that it could potentially help.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p><u>HUNSTANTON TOWN (UNIT B) UPDATE</u></p> <p>Officers delivered a presentation providing an update on Unit B, as attached.</p> <p>Officers explained they were continuing to monitor how much sand or</p>	

	<p>material was at the base of the North Promenade sea defences.</p> <p>An update was provided on how much had been spent on works in this financial year 2024/2025 and it was noted there had been a total spend of just over £154,000 as of November 2024. Officers explained a large part of that spend was a piece of work which came to a total of £60,000 that was undertaken in the summer 2024.</p> <p>Officers summarised some of the repair works which had been undertaken. Officers added that the sea defences would be checked over the winter period and the next full inspection would take place in March 2025 to identify any further works.</p> <p>The geotechnical investigations were completed between 21st October and 7th November 2024, and it was explained that they were expecting to receive a final report of the outcomes in the first quarter of 2025.</p> <p>In response to a question from Andrew Murray, Officers explained that they had some records of which bits they had repaired along that section of the promenade.</p> <p>Councillor Parish referred to the historical beach levels and asked if anything had changed in the nature of the structure on or behind the beach on land between 2015 and October 2024. In response, Officers explained that the longshore drift was no longer occurring. Officers added that in 2015/2016, coastal processes had changed. Material had now started to form large sandbars offshore from Old Hunstanton and Holme-next-the-Sea preventing material moved via longshore drift from North Norfolk from reaching Hunstanton. It was also explained that cross shore sediment movement was now dominant in Hunstanton, and that in combination with nearshore currents, that was resulting in erosion being the dominant coastal process on the Hunstanton stretch of coastline. This is also what was pulling material off the beach and onto the sandbanks offshore from Hunstanton.</p> <p>Councillor Parish raised a further question and asked whether any investigations had been undertaken to determine why the longshore drift had changed. Officers explained that the Jacobs Groyne Effectiveness Report stated that there had been an inshore current movement from the South which resulted in pushing the material further North.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p><u>WECMS FUNDING GROUP UPDATE</u></p> <p>Officers provided information on the annual beach recycling for 2023/2024, as attached.</p>	

	<p>It was explained that the separate funding groups had met three times, and the details were published in the Local Sea Defences Newsletter.</p> <p>It was noted that the total cost of the 2023/2024 beach recycling was £100,000.</p> <p>Officers explained that the Funding Group would be meeting again between February and March 2025 to ensure funding is available to continue the annual beach recycling works.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Parish, Officers explained that they were reviewing the need to carry out beach recycling works annually via a beach management manual.</p>	
7	<p><u>SOUTH HUNSTANTON TO WOLFERTON CREEK (UNIT C) UPDATE</u></p> <p>Officers delivered a presentation providing an update on the progress of Unit C, as attached.</p> <p>Officers explained they had received the results from the Unit C Initial Assessment which was completed in July 2024. It was noted that the beach at Unit C was in a healthy condition and that the environmental triggers in the original Wash East Coast Management Strategy (WECMS) had been met.</p> <p>It was explained that a full review of the WECMS was required to determine the future management approach for Unit C and Officers outlined the review timeline. It was noted that they would begin the WECMS review in April 2025 subject to funding approval.</p> <p>Officers provided information in relation to the work around updating the coastal modelling and funding. The Stakeholder Group were reminded that the new Government launched the new budget announcements at the end of October 2024, and it was explained that they were still waiting for those. Officers highlighted a bid had been submitted for the WECMS review and initial indicative allocations would be received at the beginning of January 2025 with a view to making recommendations and decisions to the Regional Flood Coastal Committee (RFCC) in March 2025.</p> <p>In response to comments from Paul Bland, Officers confirmed that over the last few years, an Enforcement Officer had been patrolling the South Beach area every two weeks and were hopefully now in a position to issue fines and notices. The Stakeholder Group were reassured that they were taking enforcement seriously on the ridge.</p> <p>Councillor Squire asked whether residents in the South Beach area</p>	

	<p>were informed if any fines or enforcement notices were issued to reassure them that action was being taken. Officers confirmed this was not something that was done but confirmed this could be done in the future.</p> <p>Councillor Parish referred to comments made with regards to enforcement and suggested including an article within the Heacham newsletter or Town and Around if any fines or enforcement notices were issued as this was a good way of communicating and engaging with residents or informing the Parish Council.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Parish, Officers outlined the funding process. Officers confirmed that after the meeting, a map could be shared to the Stakeholder Group which sets out how different areas across the whole catchment are categorised.</p> <p>Councillor Squire referred to the two questions which Officers put forward on the final slide within their presentation and asked the Stakeholder Group how they wished to engage with the process going forward whether that be through the Stakeholder meetings or a different method.</p> <p>Officers suggested continuing with Stakeholder meetings, workshops, routine email updates and additionally engage with Parish magazines.</p>	
8	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>Officers highlighted that there was two big pieces of work that were due to go live in 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Flood Risk Assessment 2 (NaFRA2) • National Coastal Erosion Risk Assessment 2 (NCERM2) <p>Officers confirmed they would circulate the details to the Stakeholder Group and explained they were going to be web-based maps allowing people to view new flood zones and changes in coastal erosion.</p>	
9	<p><u>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>To be scheduled for late April/early May 2025.</p>	

The meeting closed at 2.04 pm